

Message Text

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R 092145Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214231

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PAROLE PROGRAM

REF: BANGKOK 18612

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS EMBASSY CONCERN OVER PLIGHT
LAO REFUGEES AND BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURES
UNDER WHICH THEY ARE PLACED. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT
BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE UNSPONSORED, THOUGH OTHERWISE
ELIGIBLE, LAO REFUGEES TO UTAPAO.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT BUDGET FOR LAO PROGRAM
IS MUCH MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THAT FOR VN AND KHMER
REFUGEES. FURTHER, THE EXTREMELY LARGE CASELOAD OF
UNSPONSORED VN AND KHMER REFUGEES FOR WHOM VOLAGS ARE NOW
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TRYING TO FIND SPONSORS MAKES IT UNCERTAIN HOW LONG LAO

MIGHT HAVE TO REMAIN UTAPAO AWAITING SPONSORS.

3. UNHCR, HOWEVER, HAS FUNDS AND HAS ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY ASSIST LAO REFUGEES AS WELL AS VN AND KHMER REFUGEES IN THAILAND. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE THOSE EVENTUALLY DESIRING TO LEAVE FOR U.S. OR THIRD COUNTRIES AND THESE MIGHT BE HELD IN SEPARATE FACILITY. YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH UNHCR AND MAY WISH RAISE DESIRABILITY SEPARATE FACILITY FOR ETHNIC LAO. THIS WOULD ASSIST REFUGEES ECONOMICALLY AND HOPEFULLY MIGHT EASE OUT-PROCESSING, LOGISTICS BURDEN ON EMBASSY.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS AUTHORIZED EMBASSY MOVE SEVERAL ESPECIALLY THREATENED LAO REFUGEES TO UTAPAO AND IS, OF COURSE, PREPARED CONTINUE DEAL WITH EMBASSY REQUESTS OF THIS NATURE ON CASE BY CASE BASIS.

5. THOUGH MODALITIES OVERALL PROGRAM NOT YET WORKED OUT, WE PLAN MOVE FORWARD ON THOSE PRIORITY I AND II LAO REFUGEES WHO HAVE SPONSORS OR WHO ARE CAPABLE OF SELF-SPONSORSHIP. PLEASE PROVIDE NAMES OF THESE REFUGEES, BRIEF BIO AND NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF SPONSORS. WE WILL PASS TO VOLAGS FOR VERIFICATION OF SPONSOR AND PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE FOR MOVEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES SHORTLY.

6. WE ALSO HOPE MOVE SHORTLY ON SPONSORED PRIORITY III LAO WITHIN CURRENT ALLOCATION AND WE WILL BE REQUESTING SIMILAR INFORMATION ON THESE REFUGEES. BEFORE MOVING ON PRIORITY III, HOWEVER, WE MUST ASSURE OURSELVES THAT ADEQUATE NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL PRIORITY I AND II. THUS, REQUEST POST PROVIDE UPDATED REPORT ON NUMBER LAO PRIORITY I AND II REFUGEES SEEKING ASYLUM IN U.S.

7. RESPONSE TO BULK OF OUTSTANDING LAO VISA FALCON CHECKS BEING SENT SEPTEL. KISSINGER

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